

WILLIAM S. RUPP

• Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of William S. Rupp of St. Peters, MO. I join his wife June, the rest of his family and his many friends in honoring and recognizing him on his 80th birthday, October 10, 2004.

A devoted husband, father of five and grandfather of 16, Bill's first 80 years have been rich and full. He has achieved a great deal and has contributed tremendously to his State and his country.

As a United States Marine in the Pacific Theater during World War II, Bill saw some of the fiercest fighting of the war. He served bravely for 3 years until he was honorably discharged in 1945.

Bill chose not to end his devotion to the military when he left the Pacific, and he has been a very active and highly effective veteran. He has served as chairman of the St. Peters Veterans Memorial Commission and helped design and coordinated the city's Veterans' Memorial site. He was also instrumental in the construction of St. Peters' Korean War Memorial. Bill is a member of Congressman TODD AKIN's Veteran Memorial Commission and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10838, where he has served as Commander, All-State Quartermaster, Safety Chair, Hospital Chair, Military Assistance Chair and Deputy Inspector.

In addition to veterans' affairs, Mr. Rupp has been involved in other important civic matters. While his children were in school, he served with distinction as president of the McBride High School Father's Club, president of the Rosary High School Parent Teacher Association and as a judge for the Amateur Athletic Union's 75th track meet. In addition, he is a past president of the Summerhill Association.

After his military service, Bill attended Washington University before becoming a marketing representative for Gateway Seed Company and a department manager for Famous-Barr Company. He attended St. Louis University High School and St. Roch's Catholic Grade School.

I am honored to congratulate Mr. Rupp on this special occasion. He has many accomplishments in his long life thus far, and I wish him many more years of happiness and success.●

COMMEMORATING THE INTEGRATION OF HOXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it has been 50 years since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 1954 landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate was not equal when it came to our children's education. That ruling changed the way that Americans are educated and opened up countless opportunities for all children, both black and white, to learn about and from one another.

Hoxie, AR, is a small town in the northeast corner of my state, with a

population of just about 3,000 people. Prior to 1954, like many other schools in Arkansas and across the South, the Hoxie School District was segregated. To get an education, black children had to travel thirty minutes by bus to the neighboring town of Jonesboro where they attended Booker T. Washington School with other black students from around the region.

Following Brown, the Hoxie School Board unanimously voted to become one of the first schools in the South to begin integration. In the fall of 1955, Hoxie School Board members, faculty, students, and citizens stood together with 21 black children who enrolled and became the first black students to attend the Hoxie School system. This courageous step, in the face of opposition from around the state and across the Nation, helped open doors for future generations of students in Arkansas.

I recently had the honor of attending a reunion for the Hoxie Twenty-One, as they have come to be known in Arkansas. It was a wonderful event in which the community gathered to commemorate the integration of Hoxie School District. We paid tribute to the Hoxie Twenty-One and their families, as well as to the school officials and community leaders who paved the way for integration at Hoxie. The courage and resolve that the citizens of Hoxie showed in 1955 is an example of those who are willing to embrace the spirit of equality and to do what is right for every child in the community.

Today, Arkansas' children go to school in a different environment than that confronted by the Hoxie Twenty-One back in 1955. We certainly have more work to do to ensure that all of our children receive the best possible education, but I am pleased with the progress we have made over the last 50 years. It is my hope that America can continue to build on the foundation that Hoxie School District helped to create to ensure that all of our nation's children, no matter their race, are provided with the best educational opportunities available.●

RECOGNIZING THE MCLEAN GIRLS LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am very pleased today to recognize the 2004 McLean Girls Little League Softball team for their hard work and determination in representing both Virginia and the South in the 2004 Girls Little League World Series tournament.

These young athletes, under the strong coaching of Jamie Loving, devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy in their efforts to make it to the World Series tournament in Portland, Oregon. Throughout their season, they showed courage and fortitude in winning the State competition with a record of 5-1 and the regional competition with a perfect record of 5-0. The team then went on to compete in the World Series tour-

nament against teams across the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Europe and Puerto Rico. This is a great accomplishment for these Virginia girls, especially since this is the first time in the history of the tournament that a team from Virginia has made it to the World Series.

I would like to congratulate each of the members of the McLean Girls Little League Softball team: Brooke Brown, Sarah Eidt, Michelle Tilson, Lauren Sanata, Megan Sullivan, Brittany McCray, Lauren Sutherland, Madeleine Giaquinto, Adrienne Engel, Jamie Bell, Kukana Ho'opi'i, Shannon Engel, Lauren McColgan, Rachel Ing and their coaches, Jamie Loving, Darrell Tilson and Kurt Brown.

As a former student-athlete, I understand the impact that athletics play in the development of an individual's character and life. Sports teach us important lessons of self-discipline, perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship and self-confidence. The benefits of participating in athletics can prove valuable in the daily lives of student-athletes whether at school or at work in their communities. I wish all of the members of the team and their coaches continued success in the future. Keep Winning.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. LINDA CRNIC

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Linda Crnic, of Denver, CO, who passed away unexpectedly on September 10, 2004.

Dr. Crnic was a professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and director of the Colorado Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability Research Center. She was also an inspiration to thousands of families across the Nation for her internationally recognized research on Down syndrome and Fragile X.

Down syndrome and Fragile X are the two leading genetic disorders causing mental retardation. Fragile X is an inherited disorder caused by a defect in one gene on the X chromosome. It is also the most common known cause of Autism.

While I did not know Linda personally, many individuals have reached out to me in recent weeks with stories and tributes about the impact Linda made as a mother, as a colleague, as a friend, and through her research.

Dr. Crnic's research helped individuals with Down syndrome and Fragile X become increasingly integrated into society and live fuller and more active lives.

Through the efforts and outreach of professionals like Linda Crnic, all of us benefit as research about these disorders have also led to new medical insights and treatments.

According to those families, whose lives she touched so profoundly, one cannot begin to describe the high regard and affection in which Dr. Crnic